#### Institutional research data management at Newcastle University

The significance of research data has increased dramatically in recent years, both in terms of the volume collected and the impact that it makes on the research being conducted - academically and in a financial sense. Funding councils are now expecting researchers to make their data available to others. For example, research funded by the EPSRC requires a roadmap for alignment with its research data management and access policy by May 2012. This task is non-trivial and potentially poses a significant burden on the individual researcher. The University Research Committee has therefore identified the need for policies to govern the storage, management and curation of research data across the institution.

#### Policy, systems and human support research data management infrastructure

Towards these, the following approach is planned:

* a review of current policy and practice
* identification of a suitable cross-section of researchers to participate in consultation with regards to policy
* requirements gathering from researchers investigating data collection, analysis and sharing
* drawing on the results of the survey, recommendations for a coherent framework of policy and practice in order to effect institutional research data management.
* draft recommendations for a formal institutional data management policy and the initiation of the procedure for its formal approval and adoption by the University
* in later work, exemplar research projects will be invited to test a pilot research data management infrastructure and its components
* recommendations for the training and guidance infrastructure to support researchers in these policies and their use will be provided, together with embedding of good practice at the doctoral and postdoctoral level

#### *iridium* project

The iridium project is funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and represents a collaboration between the University Research Office, the Digital Institute, the University Library, Information Systems & Services and MEDEV. It reports to URC on a regular basis and is monitored by a Steering Group consisting of the Directors of the project partners and chaired by Professor Tony Roskilly.

The project will make links with existing University services, initiatives and research such as the Research Data Warehouse Service, research outputs management, cloud data and shared services, digitisation projects and the Digital Campus.

The aim of *iridium* is to make recommendations for a complete holistic plan and infrastructure for research data management in the University, making data generated by research at the University both available and discoverable with effective curation throughout the full data lifecycle in consultation with the researchers who produce it. It should be noted that:

* central to the project is the formulation policy and appropriate support for its implementation
* information technology will likely play an important role in supporting compliance with newly developed policies, with a significant part of the project investigating the assessment of this
* creation of new IT systems will not be an outcome of this project
* it is not about reducing costs
* it is emphatically not about the provision of research data storage space

The principal project outputs are:

* an institutional research data management policy (as required by the funding councils)
* a costed business case for a sustainable institution-wide research data management infrastructure to support that policy

#### How to get involved

The iridium project is keen to consult and engage as widely as possible within the University. Below are some ways you may wish to get your academic staff involved:

1. Become part of a Consultative Group that is representative of a cross-section of researchers. Meeting every 6 weeks, it is envisaged that this group will include 4 Principal Investigators from each of the Faculties, in addition to members of the project team and interested parties. The Consultative Group will advise the project team and Steering Group and will include activities such as commenting on project requirement surveys and reviewing draft recommendations for policies.

Policy principles likely to be covered will include roles of researchers and research support staff, accountability and responsibility, internal data discoverability, authoring of data management plans, legislative and funder specifications compliance, data repositories and appropriate University training, support and guidance. Feedback on these will be essential to the project and comments will be invited from as wide an audience as possible.

1. Sign up to be interviewed by members of the project. This initial stage is looking to gather research data management requirements and understand the issues and views of researchers and is an excellent opportunity for your staff to get involved and help shape future policy recommendations. These interviews are expected to take 1 hour. An online survey will also be conducted.

#### Further details

For more information, please contact the Project Manager:

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